

**Consideration of Change in Approval Status
From Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval
Cephas Center for Health Sciences in Dallas, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the proposed change in approval status for the Cephas Center for Health Sciences (CCHS) Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2016 NCLEX-PN[®] examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas of improvement to align with Rule 214.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN Program at CCHS was approved by the Board in April 2012 and began enrolling students in May 2012.
- CCHS is a private institution owned by Peninnah (Penny) Ihemelu, RN, BSC who also serves as Director of the program.
- The program is designed to be delivered in a 12-month format (four quarters).
- The most recent survey visit was conducted on March 15, 2012, by Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN.
- The program is currently on Initial Approval with Warning status.
- The NCLEX-PN[®] examination pass rates for the past three years are provided in the table below:

Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN[®] Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2016	Initial with Warning	40.00%	8/20
2015	Initial	43.75%	7/16
2014	Initial	28.57%	6/21
2013	New Program		

- Due to the 2014 NCLEX-PN[®] examination pass rate of 28.57%, the Program Director and faculty were required to submit a Self-Study Report (SSR) in 2015 that would evaluate factors that may have contributed to the graduates' performance on the NCLEX-PN[®] examination and a description of the corrective measures to be implemented.
- The Program Director and faculty members identified factors in the SSR that may have contributed to the decline in the pass rate and designed the following corrective measures:
 - revise admission requirements; and
 - strengthen student policies related to remediation and use of ATI resources.

- The program planned to revise admission policies and student policies related to remediation.
- Board Staff held a conference call with the Program Director on March 10, 2017, to discuss measures currently being implemented by faculty to improve the success of the students.
- Board Staff have a survey visit scheduled for April 27, 2017.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Rule 214.4(c)(3)(B) states: “A program may be placed on conditional approval status if the pass rate of first-time NCLEX-PN® candidates ... is less than 80% for three consecutive examination years.” Rule 214.4(a)(4) states that “Conditional approval is issued by the Board for a specified time to provide the opportunity to correct deficiencies. (A) The program shall not admit students while on conditional approval.” The program continues to implement corrective measures but program improvement has not occurred.

Staff Recommendations:

Move to change the approval status for the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval based upon the 2016 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214, and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #1).

April 21, 2017

Penninah Ihemelu, RN, BSC, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Cephas Center for Health Sciences
4563 South Westmoreland Rd.
Dallas, TX 75237

Dear Ms. Ihemelu:

At the April 20-21, 2017 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the approval status of the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2016, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to change the approval status of the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas from Initial Approval with Warning to Conditional Approval and impose the conditions and requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Board Staff at Gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov or 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Texas Workforce Commission

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Cephas Center for Health Sciences
Vocational Nursing Education Program
In Dallas, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 20, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the approval status of the Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 214, based upon the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate for 2016, findings in the 2015 Self-Study Report, and areas for improvement to align with Rule 214.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, the Board hereby CHANGES the approval status of Cephas Center for Health Sciences Vocational Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, from INITIAL APPROVAL WITH WARNING to CONDITIONAL APPROVAL and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall not enroll students while on conditional approval status.
2. The program shall remain on conditional approval status until the program demonstrates a pass rate for first-time candidates of at least 80% on the 2017 NCLEX-PN® examination. The NCLEX-PN® examination year is January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.
3. The program must demonstrate full compliance with Rule 214 prior to consideration of a change in approval status.

Entered this 20st day of April, 2017

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
On Behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing